ABSTRACT

A method for processing a digital color image includes the steps of: providing a subject matter detector for distinguishing between target and background subject matters; applying the subject matter detector to the image to produce a belief map indicating the degree of belief that pixels in the image belong to target subject matter; providing an image enhancement operation that is responsive to a control signal for controlling the degree of image enhancement; and applying image enhancement to the digital image by varying the control signal according to the belief map to produce an enhanced image.

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